National Citizen Science programme in Serbia

Dobrivoje Lale Eric Center for the Promotion of Science | Serbia

Sustaining Responsible Research and Innovation in the Western Balkans WBC-RRI.NET final conference Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Skopje February 9, 2024



Center for the Promotion of Science (CPN)





- Serbia's public institution, in the system of the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Technological Development
- Founded after the Law on Scientific Research in 2010
- Part of the strategic development and investment plan in science and research
- Facilitating dialogue between science and society
- Supporting knowledge based economy and innovation
- Bringing together diverse social groups and actors
- Advocating for science-based public policy
- Center of science communication, culture & literacy
- Financial support for the science promotion, citizen
 science & art-science projects

CPN's main activities

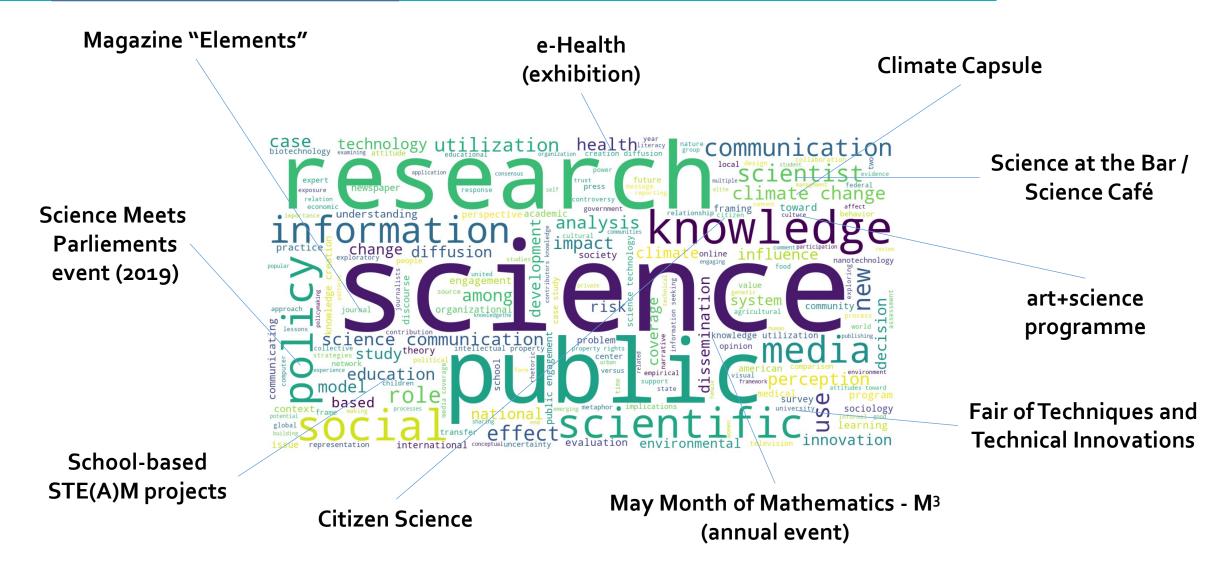


- Large scale events May Month of Mathematics (M³), Days of Future: Robotics, CERN in Serbia, art+science, European Researchers' Night
- Network of Science Clubs (13 units) and Network of Makers Labs (14 units) throughout the country
- Belgrade Book Fair presentation of the annual production of national scientific publications
- Conferences on science communication, STE(A)M education, art & science, climate topics etc.
- Elements magazine & sci-comm publications
- Programme activities across SEE region
- Cooperation within the professional associations at European level (ECSITE, ECSA, Scientix)
- Focus on climate literacy & AI challenges since 2018
- Participation in EU-funded projects (17 active at the moment, >60 in total since 2012)



SciComm Practices





Citizen Science programme in Serbia

CENTER FOR THE PROMOTION OF SCIENCE

- Proposed and formulated by the CPN, by its previous experience
- Formally introduced in the Action Plan 2021-23 of the Strategy of Scientific and Technological Development of Serbia, which was adopted in mid 2021
- Foreseen annual budget in the Action plan: 15 million RSD, starting from 2022
- Approved and budgeted for the first time in 2023
- First call: autumn 2023
- Six projects funded after the initial call, starting from January 2024
- Duration of projects: 2 years
- The initial call was followed by a campaign within research community and at all public universities
- Terminological challenge in Serbian: "Građanska nauka" vs. "Građanska naučna istraživanja" vs. "Volonterska nauka"



Република Србија МИНИСТАРСТВО НАУКЕ, ТЕХНОЛОШКОГ РАЗВОЈА И ИНОВАЦИЈА

Citizen Science programme in Serbia: Goals





- Enhance Collaboration: Encourage collaborative partnerships between researchers and citizens to tackle societal challenges
- Acknowledge Citizen's Role: Recognize citizens' pivotal role in scientific research, advocating active involvement and inclusiveness
- Foster Innovation: Support projects leveraging participatory approaches and technology to address social challenges innovatively
- Emphasise Social Impact: Align projects with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), recognising citizens' contributions to positive societal changes

Citizen Science programme in Serbia: Open Call

- English only, online, through the CPN's platform
- The application's obligatory parts:
- clear presentation of research goals
- research plan
- plan for the inclusion of citizens
- participatory methodology
- project timeline within 24 months
- budget plan (within the limit of 4 million RSD (approx. 35,000€)

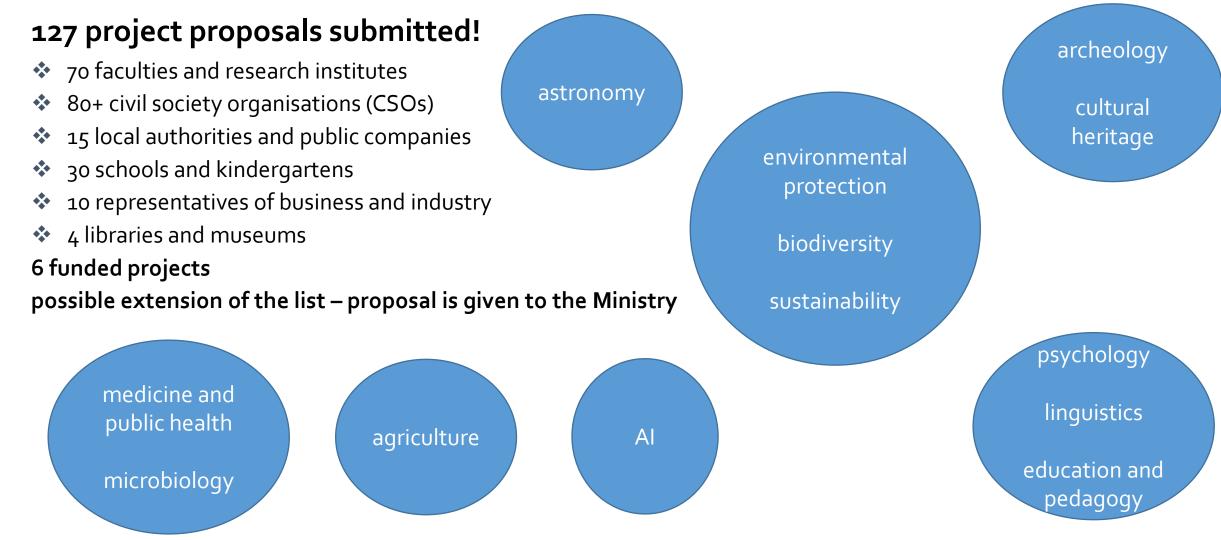
- International evaluation board
- Evaluation criteria:
- idea and the team
- impact
- community
- implementation and budget
- +
- ECSA's 10 CS principles
- SDGs
- Open Science
- national GDPR regulation





Citizen Science programme in Serbia: Results





Citizen Science programme in Serbia: 6 awarded projects

1) Ecosystem Services Assessment of Ribnica Gorge (Western Serbia) through Citizen Science *Faculty of Biology, University of Belgrade

2) Diabetic Chronic Wounds Prevention and Eradication - Patients Come to the Rescue

*Institute for Molecular Genetics and Genetic Engineering, University of Belgrade

- 3) Cultivating Soil Connectivity: Empowering Farmers and Youth Community as Citizen
- Scientists to Monitor Soil Health and Biodiversity

*BioSense Institute, University of Novi Sad

4) Heritage of Emancipation: Empowering Roma Women through Networks of Solidarity (HEROINES)

*The Ethnographic Institute of SANU

5) Citizen Co-Creation: Shaping a Sustainable Future of Wastewater Treatment in Serbia by

Pioneering Energy-Neutral & Zero-Waste Approach

*Faculty of Civil Engineering, University of Belgrade

6) Stay or Leave – Spotlight on Migration Intentions In The rUral areas (RurSITU)

*Geographical Institute "Jovan Cvijić", SANU



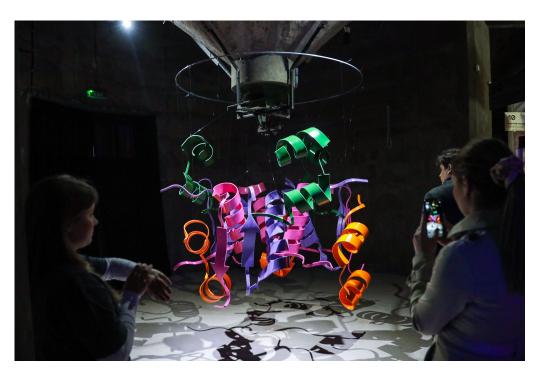


2024: M³ & art+science



M³ 2024: bioinformatics

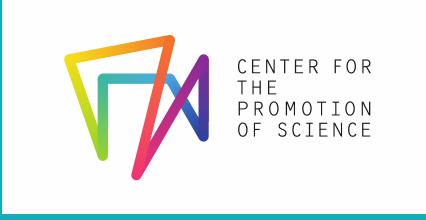
- Science Club Novi Sad, Cultural Station
 "Svilara" and other venues in Novi Sad
- * May 2024



art+science 2024: on humans, tech and nature

- Botanical Garden Belgrade
- (end of) September October 2024





Thank you for your attention!

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